

Manuscript Submissions

PLAYS is always in the market for exciting, interesting, well-written, and age appropriate material for lower, middle, and upper grade actors. We accept material on spec from first-timers as well as well-established professional authors—with no promises that we'll be able to buy or use the submission in PLAYS. All submissions must be in hard copy (no email or CDs) following our submission guidelines.

Manuscript Submission Guidelines

PLAYS, The Drama Magazine for Young People, publishes approximately 75 wholesome, one-act plays each year (in seven issues, October through May, with a combined issue for January/February). We are in the market for good scripts to be performed by young people in junior and senior high, middle grades, and lower grades. Of particular interest are comedies, farces, dramas, mysteries, and melodramas for year-round use, as well as plays for such holidays and special occasions as Halloween, Book Week, Black History Month, Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Washington's Birthday, etc. We use only secular plays for Christmas and other religious holidays, and publish no plays on religious themes.

In addition, we are looking for plays addressing environmental and human rights issues; historical and biographical plays; fairy tales and folk tales; skits; contemporary plays; and dramatized classics. (Query first for dramatized classics; stories adapted must be in the public domain.) We publish no music or musicals, but plays may include original words to be sung to familiar tunes.

Plays must be simple to produce, with minimal requirements for costumes, stage sets, and lighting. One minimal setting is preferred, and when more than one is required, the scene changes should be kept to a minimum. Please note: Characters should not use incorrect grammar, dialect, or profane language. Payment for all manuscripts is made on acceptance. Rates vary, according to the length of a play and age level for which it is appropriate. The magazine buys all rights.

All submissions must be accompanied by a self-addressed envelope, large enough and with sufficient postage for the manuscript's return. Always keep a copy of your manuscript. If you do not wish the manuscript returned, enclose first-class SASE for editorial reply. Mail submissions to [Liz Preston, Editor](#), PLAYS, P.O. Box 600160, Newton, MA 02460.

Format

Manuscripts must be typed on 8 1/2" by 11" paper, with margins of at least one inch all around. Leave one line space between speeches. Stage directions should be separated from speeches by parentheses. Names of characters preceding speeches and in stage directions should be in capital letters. Please don't underline or use abbreviations. Do not send photos or tapes of productions.

The following should appear at the beginning of each play:

List of characters

Indication of time in which the play is set

Description of the setting (if there is more than one scene, the setting should be described at the start of each scene)

An "At Rise" description of what is taking place onstage and which characters are onstage when the curtain rises

The manuscript should be followed by Production Notes, including number of characters; playing time; costumes; properties; setting(s); and special lighting and sound effects.

Manuscript Length

Junior and Senior High: 15 to 20 typed pages (20 to 35 minutes playing time)

Middle Grades: 12 to 15 typed pages (15 to 20 minutes playing time)

Lower Grades: 6 to 10 typed pages (8 to 15 minutes playing time)

Skits and Curtain Raisers: 8 to 10 typed pages (10 to 15 minutes playing time)

Remember: Please don't email your submissions.